Hardships of CSIR Scientists Due to Vigilance Officers

768. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether CSIR scientists are facing hardships at the hands of Vigilance Officers for detailed scrutiny of, expenditure incurred on research by scientists;

.(b) whether much of their time is spent on explaining such adminsitrative matters to Government;

(c) whether the hurdles and such insinuation compelled several Directors of NPL and SCIO, Chandigarh to resign recently; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to honour scientists, as in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) No Sir;

(c) No Sir. Both the Directors were on foriegn service terms with CSIR. On the specific requests made based on purely personal reasons and with the approval of the competent authority they have been repatriated to their respective parent departments.

(d) Does not arise.

Resignations by Officials of Research Establishments

769. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director, National Physical Laboratory, resigned in April, 2000 before completing his six years term;

(b) whether Director of another CSIR Institute, Central Scientific Instruments Organisation in Chandigarh also resigned abruptly in 1999 before completion of his tenure;

(c) the hurdles faced by them compelling resignations; and

(d) the action proposed to ensure that scientists are not harassed and can concentrate on their research countries?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) Both the Directors were on foreign service terms with CSIR. On the Specific requests made based on purely personal reasons and with the approval of the competent authority they have been repatriated to their respective parent departments.

Research, on Genetic Code

770. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent findings made on genetic code; and

(b) if so, whether Government also propose to start separate research in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAW AT): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the announcement on June 26, 2000 of a working draft of human genome sequence.

(b) The Government of India since 1990 has already started a focussed programme on Human Genome and Indian initiative, Human Genome Diversity and Gene Therapy. Fourteen genetic diagnosis-cum counselling units have been established in different regions to provide pre-natal diagnosis and counselling to the affected families for common genetic disorders prevalent in the country. Programmes on Functional Genomics and Human Genome Diversity have given promising research leads. A National Bioethics Committee has been set up. A sound infrastructure and expertise has been